

We Claim:

1. A method of applying splints or supports to an injured portion of the anatomy comprising the steps of:

forming a splint body, including a blank impregnated with hardenable material, said splint body having at least one primary laterally extending tacking extension;

activating said hardenable material;

holding said splint support to the anatomy by engaging said primary laterally extending tacking extension; and

functionally securing said splint or support in place with additional secondary immobilization arrangements;

whereby the primary tacking extensions permit convenient location and positioning adjustment of the splint or support during application, and the secondary securing arrangements provide functional support.

2. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the splint or support is accurately positioned in the optimum position on the patient while the splint or support is held only by the primary tacking extensions.

3. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein said laterally extending securing extensions are formed as an integral part of said blank.

4. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein said splint or support is formed with an exterior surface of hook receivable material, and wherein each said tacking extension is provided with a hook type construction thereon which makes securing contact with said hook receivable material.

5. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein said blank is formed of double knit type spacer material.

6. An efficient splint or support comprising:
an orthopaedic blank impregnated with hardenable material;
primary tacking arrangements for holding said blank in place on the injured part

of the patient's anatomy in a manner that still allows adjustment of said blank with respect to the anatomy; and

secondary holding arrangements for functionally securing the blank in place on the patient after the blank has been activated and properly mounted on the patient;

whereby the splint or support may be easily and properly mounted on the patient.

7. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said blank is of generally longitudinal extent and has laterally extending extensions creating said tacking arrangements.

8. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said blank has a covering formed of a hook receivable material and said primary tacking arrangements are provided with a hook type construction thereon.

9. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said primary tacking arrangements are formed of hook and loop type material.

10. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said blank is formed of double knit spacer type material.

11. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said splint or support has an additional piece extending through the web space between the thumb and forefinger for assisting in the location of said splint on the forearm.

12. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 11 wherein said tacking portion is integral to said splint or support.

13. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 11 wherein said tacking portion is a separate and additional piece.

14. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said secondary holding arrangements comprise an exo-skeletal structure overlying said blank.

15. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 7 wherein said tacking arrangements are non-rectangular in shape.

16. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 7 wherein at least one of said lateral extensions has an opening for receiving the thumb of a patient.

17. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein the primary tacking arrangement is made of a nonwoven material.

18. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein the primary tacking arrangements are removable and repositionable with respect to the splint or support.
19. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein the primary tacking arrangement is made from a stretchable material.
20. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said orthopaedic blank has a padding layer on at least one side.
21. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said secondary holding arrangements include a resilient, flexible, stretchable tape.
22. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said blank has a non-rectangular shape and has laterally extending extensions creating said tacking arrangements.
23. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said blank has slits along the length of the splint to reduce bulk after molding.
24. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein the splint or support assembly includes an anti-flexion strap for increased support.
25. An efficient splint or support comprising:
 - an orthopaedic blank impregnated with hardenable material;
 - primary tacking arrangements for holding said blank in place on the injured part of the patient's anatomy in a manner that still allows adjustment of said blank with respect to the anatomy; and
 - secondary holding arrangements comprising an exo-skeletal structure overlying said blank for functionally securing the blank in place on the patient after the blank has been activated and properly mounted on the patient;
 - whereby the splint or support may be easily and properly mounted on the patient.
26. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 25 wherein said blank has a covering formed of hook receivable material and said primary tacking arrangements are provided with a hook type construction thereon.
27. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 25 wherein said orthopaedic blank has a non-rectangular shape to fit a specific portion of the anatomy.
28. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 25 wherein said blank is formed of double knit spacer type material.

29. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 25 wherein said tacking arrangements are non-rectangular in shape.

30. A method of applying splints or supports to an injured portion of the anatomy comprising the steps of:

forming a splint body, including a blank impregnated with hardenable material, said splint body having at least one primary laterally extending tacking extension;

activating said hardenable material;

holding said splint support to the anatomy prior to hardening of the blank by engaging said primary laterally extending tacking extension;

adjusting the position and configuration of the blank while it is still malleable and is being loosely held by said tacking extension; and

maintaining the blank in its adjusted position while the blank hardens;

whereby the primary tacking extensions permit convenient location and adjustment of the splint or support during application of the splint or support and before the blank hardens.

31. A method as defined in claim 30 further comprising the step of functionally securing the splint or support in place with additional secondary immobilization arrangements.

32. A method as defined in claim 30 wherein said forming step includes forming said tacking extensions with hook and loop type materials.

33. A method as defined in claim 30 wherein said forming step includes forming said blank of double knit type spacer material.

34. A method as defined in claim 30 wherein said forming step includes forming said blank with a thumb hole.

35. A method as defined in claim 30 wherein said forming step includes forming said extensions with a non-rectangular configuration.

36. A method as defined in claim 30 wherein said forming step includes forming said tacking extension to be removably secured to said blank.

37. A method as defined in claim 30 wherein said forming step includes forming said blank with slits along the length of the splint or support.

38. A method as defined in claim 30 wherein said forming step includes forming the splint or support assembly with an anti-flexion strap for increased support.

39. An efficient splint or support method comprising the steps of:
 forming a splint or support including an orthopaedic blank impregnated with water hardenable material;
 holding said splint or support in place on the injured part of the patient's anatomy using primary tacking arrangements attached to said splint or support; and
 functionally securing the splint or support in place on the patient after the blank has been activated and properly mounted on the patient, using secondary holding arrangements;
 whereby the splint or support may be easily and effectively mounted on the patient.

40. An efficient splint or support comprising:
 an elongate blank in roll form impregnated with hardenable material;
 at least one layer of additional non-impregnated material on at least one side of said blank;
 laterally extending primary tacking arrangements for holding said blank in place on the injured part of the patient's anatomy in a manner that still allows adjustment of said blank with respect to the anatomy; and
 secondary holding arrangements for functionally securing the blank in place on the patient after the blank has been activated and properly mounted on the patient;
 whereby the splint or support may be easily and properly mounted on the patient.

41. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein said additional layer is a padding material.

42. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein one side of said blank is covered with a padding material and the other with a hook receivable material and said primary tacking arrangements are provided with a hook type construction thereon.

43. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein said padding material is a double knit fabric.

44. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein said hook receivable material is UBL fabric.

45. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein said blank is formed of double knit spacer material.

46. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein said blank is formed of multiple layers of casting material.

47. An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein said tacking arrangements are non-rectangular in shape.